POLICY ON IMPAIRMENT OF RECEIVABLES (METHODOLOGY)

2021/2022 FINANCIAL YEAR

MIDVAAL
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

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POLICY ON IMPAIRMENT OF RECEIVABLES (METHODOLOGY)

1. OBJECTIVES OF POLICY

To ensure that receivables from exchange transactions and receivables from non-exchange transactions are disclosed in the annual financial statements at amounts that are deemed to be collectable.

To ensure that the methodology for making an assessment of the impairment provision is based on and consistent.

2. INTRODUCTION

This policy provides guidelines on the basis on which the impairment provision is calculated..

In preparing the annual financial statements, management is required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts represented in the annual financial statements and related disclosures.

Use of available information and the application of judgement is inherent in the formation of estimates. Actual results in the future could differ from these estimates which may be material to the annual financial statements. Significant judgements include the impairment of receivables.

The municipality assesses its receivables for impairment at the end of each reporting period.

The effective management of receivables include, amongst others, the following processes:

- Implementation and maintenance of the appropriate ICT (Information Communication Technology) systems and business processes;
- Regular and accurate billing;
- Customer care and accounts enquiry management;
- Effective and timeous implementation of credit control measures;
- Impairment of receivables; (Also referred to as the provision for doubtful debts);
- Write-off of uncollectable receivables.

3. IMPAIRMENT OF RECEIVABLES

The impairment for receivables is firstly assessed for individually significant receivables and then calculated on a portfolio basis, for the remaining balance, including those individually significant receivables for which no indicators of impairment were found.

For amounts due to the municipality, significant financial difficulties of the receivable, probability that the receivable will enter bankruptcy and default of payments are all considered indicators of impairment.

An impairment loss is recognised in surplus and deficit when there is objective evidence that it is impaired.

The impairment is measured as the difference between the receivable's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows discounted at the effective interest rate, computed at initial recognition (if practically determinable).

Where the effective interest rate at initial recognition is not practically determinable, the government bond rate is used as the risk-free rate and adjusted for any risks specific to the loans and receivables.

Credit risk extends to trade receivables. Trade receivables comprise a widespread customer base. Management should evaluate credit risk relating to customers on an ongoing basis.

If customers are independently rated, these ratings are used. Otherwise, if there is no independent rating, risk control assesses the credit quality of the customer, taking into account its financial position, past experience and other factors. Individual risk limits are set based on internal or external ratings in accordance with limits set by the municipality.

The credit quality of trade and other receivables, and other receivables from non-exchange transactions that are neither past due, nor due, nor impaired can be assessed by reference to external credit ratings (if available) or to historical information about counterparty default rates.

Consumer debtors, long term receivables and other debtors are stated at cost less a provision for impairment.

The provision for impairment is made on an individual basis or based on expected cash flows.

In accordance with IAS 39, an objective assessment of financial assets is made at financial year-end in order to determine possible impairment. Impairment losses are recognized as an expense in the Statement of Financial Performance.

The impairment provision is deducted from the gross receivable amount in the Statement of Financial Position.

Individual classes of loans and receivables are assessed for impairment using different methodologies.

3.1 CONSUMER DEBTORS

Consumer Debtors and sundry debtors are evaluated at each reporting date and impaired as follows:

- The provision for impairment is compiled in accordance with GRAP.(Generally Recognised Accounting Practice)
- The following are used to calculate the provision:
  - Ageing of each debtor account;
  - Active versus inactive account;
  - Owner or tenant account;
  - An analysis of the debtor type

The following matrix is used:

	Debtor Type					
Indicator	**Residential**	**Business**	**Indigent**	**Government**	**Municipal**	**Agriculture**
Ageing between 0-30 days outstanding	5	5	0	5	5	5
Ageing between 31-60 days outstanding	4	5	0	5	5	4
Ageing between 61-90 days outstanding	3	4	0	5	5	3
Ageing between 91-120 days outstanding	2	3	0	5	5	2
Ageing between 121-365 days outstanding	1	2	0	5	5	1
Ageing more than 365 days outstanding	0	1	0	5	5	0
Active Account	2	2	0	2	2	2
Inactive Account	0	0	0	1	1	0
Owners' Account	2	2	0	2	2	2
Tenants Account	1	1	0	2	2	1
Max points that can be earned	**9**	**9**	**9**	**9**	**9**	**9**

Scoring per matrix	**% impairment**	**% determination**
0	100.00%	Full provision
1		% impairment scoring as per category 2+ Collection rate /8
2		% impairment scoring as per category 3+ Collection rate /8
3		% impairment scoring as per category 4+ Collection rate /8

4		% impairment scoring as per category 5+ Collection rate /8
5		% impairment scoring as per category 6+ Collection rate /8
6		% impairment scoring as per category 7+ Collection rate /8
7		% impairment scoring as per category 8+ Collection rate /8
8		Collection shortfall (100% minus actual collection rate)
9	Not impaired	No Provision

In terms of the provisions of GRAP standard AG125, the above-mentioned "*Percentage of debt provided for as irrecoverable*" will be reviewed and adjusted at the Statement of Financial Position date on the basis of current observable data to reflect the effects of current conditions that did not affect the period on which the historical loss experience is based and remove the effects of conditions in the historical period that do not exist currently.

The methodology and assumptions used for estimating future cash flows will be reviewed to reduce any differences between loss estimates and actual loss experience.

4. IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW OF THIS POLICY

The policy will be effective as from 1 July 2021.

This policy is to be reviewed annually and approved by Council together with the adoption of the MTREF for the following year.